

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 591

Approved September 16, 1994

RESOLVED, That Federal, City and State Public Safety Mandates be complied with.

IN CITY COUNCIL
SEP 15 1994
READ AND PASSED
Erilyn V. Fargnoli
PRES.
Michael R. Clement
CLERK

APPROVED
SEP 16 1994
Robert A. Craven
MAYOR

General Sherman Fitzgerald & General James S. Johnston

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 592

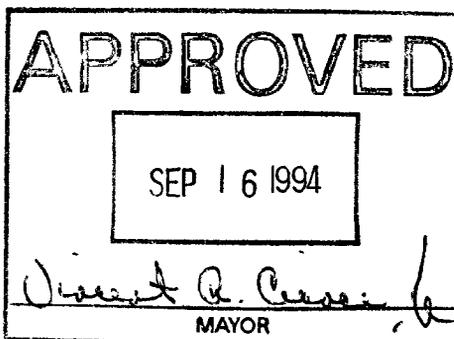
Approved September 16, 1994

RESOLVED, That the City of Providence is requested to start a Citizens Participation Program relative to reducing fear of crime in our City Parks and Playgrounds.

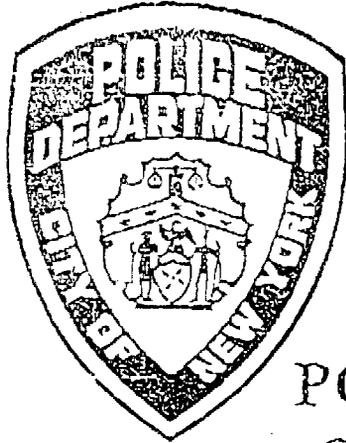
IN CITY COUNCIL

SEP 15 1994
READ AND PASSED

Evelyn V. Fargnoli
PRES.
Michael R. Clement
CLERK



Collection of the
L. M. L. (By request) Conclusions of the
H. M. L.



FAX

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

ONE POLICE PLAZA - ROOM 1403
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

TEL.: (212) 374 - ~~5399~~ 5185
FAX: (212) 374-0233

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TO:

Name: Councilman JOHN J. Lombardi
Providence, R.I.

Number of Pages: _____
(Including cover sheet)

Date: 9/9/94 Time: 4:50 p.m.

From: KEN WESLEY

Comments: Attached as per request &
telephone conversation

PLEASE CALL IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY PROBLEM WITH TRANSMISSION
OR DO NOT RECEIVE THE PROPER NUMBER OF PAGES

PARK-WATCH

A FEAR REDUCTION PROGRAM FOR NEW YORK CITY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

The New York City Police Department is committed to reducing crime and the fear of crime. Over the past few months, comprehensive strategies have been unveiled that have already markedly decreased reported crime. But recent opinion polls indicate that crime statistics alone are not sufficient to reduce fear. Fear must be attacked head-on, not obliquely as a by-product of crime strategies. "Park-Watch" is a fear reduction program that deters crime, increases the apprehension of suspects, and, most importantly, reassures citizens of their safety in public spaces.

"Park-Watch" is a simple program that equips citizens with lightweight portable phones limited to one function - dialing 9-1-1. Participants wear brightly colored "Park-Watch" nylon vests or tee-shirts to alert other people using the public spaces that the police or other emergency services can be contacted immediately, if necessary.

Unlike other citizen participation programs, "Park-Watch" does not require citizens to wear police uniforms or set aside valuable time for citizen patrols. A phone, a vest or tee-shirt and a participant's Manual are provided on the spot to properly identified local residents who use a park or playground at about the same time several days a week.

Participants deter some criminal activity by their presence. They prevent other criminal activity by notifying the police of suspicious activity before a crime occurs. If a crime occurs, participants can point out the suspect while maintaining continuous contact with emergency operators.

The greatest contribution of the "Park-Watch" program is the reassurance of safety that it gives to other park and playground users. Mothers who take their toddlers on the swings are relieved to see a participant in the playground, knowing that help is nearby, if needed. Park users are calmed by passing joggers, bicyclists and strollers who wear the "Park-Watch" vest and are equipped with the 9-1-1 phone.

Low crime statistics in the city's parks and playgrounds do not support the high levels of fear brought on by highly publicized, but isolated, crimes. An attainable goal of the program is to improve the image of New York's parks and other landmark places, such as the Coney Island boardwalk and the Brooklyn Bridge which have been the scenes of recent newsworthy crimes. A grand objective of the program is to cast off the unfair reputation of New York City as a concrete metropolis of cold strangers and expose its real character of 7 million people willing to help each other, if given the means.

The goal for large parks, like Prospect Park in Brooklyn or Central Park in Manhattan, is about 300 participants. Seamless coverage from dawn to dusk may be provided by enrolling 20 participants for each hour of the day from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM (300). The goal for a smaller area, like the Brooklyn Bridge, is about 100 participants - 3 residents who walk to work across the Bridge on weekdays from 6:00 am to 8:00 PM and an additional 50 participants who use the Bridge on weekends.

A prototype of the program began in March 1994 on the Brooklyn Bridge. Twenty students from St. Francis College in Brooklyn wear the vests and cross the bridge daily using bicycles donated by the Brooklyn Union Gas Company. There is little crime to deter on the bridge, but the positive reaction of other bridge users has been overwhelming. Bridge users have called and written requesting to participate in the program.

Two large communications corporations, NYNEX and Motorola, are joining forces to expand the program on the Bridge and start the program in Brooklyn's Prospect Park and the Coney Island boardwalk which have been the sites of widely publicized rapes this Spring. The companies are considering the donation of 500 phones and vests with a number of rechargers that will be strategically located in each area for the replacement of phone batteries. New York's City's Police Foundation is serving as the conduit for the donations.

The New York City Police Department is seeking government funding for an additional 1,500 phones and vests. The government funds will provide 100 phones to augment the Brooklyn Bridge program and another 100 phones to start the Coney Island program. The balance of 1,300 phones will be used in the largest parks in each of the other four boroughs - Central Park in Manhattan; Flushing Meadow Park in Queens; Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx; and Clove Lake Park in Staten Island. The goal is to enroll a total of 2,000 participants by the start of Summer 1994. The 25 percent match for the funding will be in the form of the 500 phones and vests donated by NYNEX and Motorola.

The total cost of the program for 2,000 participants is \$100,000.00. The phones cost approximately \$40.00 each for a total phone cost of \$80,000.00. The vests cost about \$10.00 each for a total vest cost of \$20,000.00. New York City match for the grant will be \$25,000.00 in phones and vests.

The program will be evaluated by measuring robbery, rape, assault, criminal mischief and larceny complaints in each location for the period one year prior to the start of the program and one year subsequent to its implementation. Citizen fear will also be measured by pre-program and post-program in person surveys administered to park and bridge users.

"SAFE-PARK"**A CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM TO REDUCE FEAR IN NEW YORK CITY**

The "Safe-Park" Program is part of the Police Department's effort to reduce fear and improve public safety. More than 7 million people who reside in this city do not commit crime. They care about their own safety, the safety of their families and the safety of their neighbors. Through the "Safe-Park" Program, these citizens can deter criminal activity and reassure each other that the parks and playgrounds in this city are not only beautiful, but safe as well.

The "Safe-Park" Program takes advantage of recent advances in communication technology that have produced lightweight portable phones designed for one purpose, to dial "9-1-1." Park users, going about their normal activities, carry the phones and call 9-1-1 if they observe any dangerous or suspicious activity. But their quick access to emergency services is not enough. The participants in these programs also agree to wear a distinctive nylon vest over their outer clothing that is visible to other park users. The vests signal that the area is safe and that someone is there to help, if needed.

The phones and vests will be issued to volunteers who regularly use the parks, playgrounds and other public spaces for leisure or recreation. Besides the easy access to emergency services, the Program conveys the perception, and the reality, of safety. The cold anonymity that has come to symbolize New York can be replaced by a feeling of mutual trust and concern, a recognition that New York is a city of caring people, willing and able to enjoy its beauty in safety.

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. IF YOU ANSWER "YES" TO ALL THREE QUESTIONS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE REAR OF THE FORM SO THAT WE CAN ENROLL YOU IN THE PROGRAM.

- 1) DO YOU WALK, JOG, RIDE A BIKE, SKATE OR USE THE PARK FOR ANY OTHER LEISURE OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY SEVERAL DAYS A WEEK?
YES _____ NO _____
- 2) WOULD YOU CARRY ONE OF OUR CELL PHONES WHEN YOU USE THE PARK AND DIAL 911 IF YOU SEE ANY DANGEROUS OR SUSPICIOUS CONDITIONS?
YES _____ NO _____
- 3) WOULD YOU WEAR ONE OF OUR LIGHT NYLON VESTS OVER YOUR CLOTHING TO LET OTHER PEOPLE IN THE PARK KNOW THAT YOU ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO HELP THEM?
YES _____ NO _____

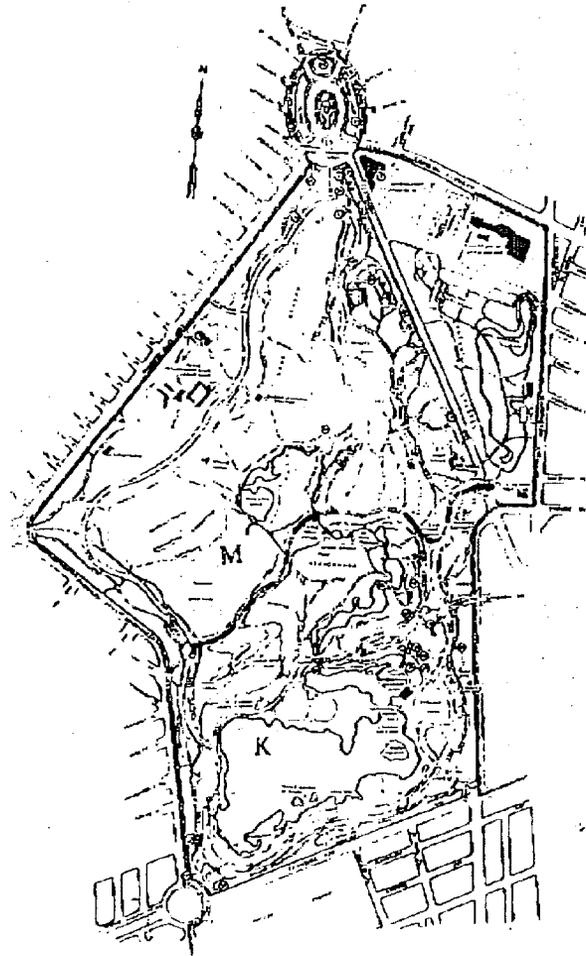
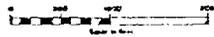
What do I do if I move to another neighborhood or stop using the park? How do I leave the Safe Parks program?

If at any time you stop using the park, or if you move to a different neighborhood, you can leave the Safe Parks program simply by returning the portable phone and the vest to the 78th Precinct station house. It's that simple!

Guidelines

1. Volunteers must fill out an application at the 78th Precinct station house or designated park locations and provide identification (e.g., driver's license, social security card, college id. card, phone or utility bill, etc.).
2. All participants will carry a free cellular telephone and wear the lightweight vest.
3. Physical and verbal altercations will be avoided.
4. Medical emergencies must be reported to the 911 operator (e.g., difficulty breathing, concussion, broken limb, etc.).
5. Crimes and dangerous conditions must be reported to the 911 operator (e.g., theft from a person, destroying park property, suspicious person, etc.).
6. Participants are responsible for the care of the cellular phone and the vest.
7. Participants are responsible for keeping the phone batteries charged. (Recharged batteries will be available, free of charge, at several locations throughout the park.)
8. First aid will be administered only by licensed/authorized personnel.
9. Tampering with the cellular phones is strictly prohibited.
10. When a volunteer no longer wishes to participate, the cellular phone and vest will be returned to the 78th Precinct station house.

PROSPECT PARK



BM 701 (7-94)-12

"SAFE PARKS"

"911"

